

THE AFRICA REGIONAL GROUP (AFRIAMSLIC): OPPORTUNITIES AND CHALLENGES

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Fisheries, including aquaculture provide a vital source of food, employment and economic well being for people throughout the world and it is expected that fisheries should be conducted in a responsible manner, which the Code of Conduct for Responsible Fisheries sets out to do. Every planning process that leads to an enhanced development of a nation must be based on reliable and adequate information. Therefore, as Librarians in water-related institutions, our concern is about the efficient and effective management of information in all aspects of water resources development which can be achieved by well-supported networks. The Africa Regional Group of IAMSLIC (AFRIAMSLIC) which seeks to provide networking opportunities among colleagues, has been in existence since the 1980s although only in recent years has communication by electronic mail enabled more active participation. This poster presentation will highlight the achievements of the group such as international co-operation with the Ocean Data Network for Africa (ODINAFRICA), and the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) / South African Institute for Aquatic Biodiversity (SAIAB) Regional Network for Improved Access to Fisheries and Aquaculture Information in Africa; the challenges and the way forward for AFRIAMSLIC in providing information that constitute the building blocks of natural development.